www.springwater.ca
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May 7, 2026

Sent via email: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park, 17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

RE: Provincial Bill 100 – Better Regional Governance Act, 2026

Please be advised that at its Regular meeting on May 6, 2026, Council of the Township of Springwater passed the following resolution:

Resolution C203-2026
Moved by: Deputy Mayor Cabral
Seconded by: Councillor Moore

Whereas Bill 100, the Better Regional Governance Act, 2026, introduced in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, proposes significant changes to the governance structure of upper-tier regional municipalities, including the County of Simcoe; and,

Whereas the proposed legislation would authorize the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to appoint the Warden of the County of Simcoe, rather than maintaining the longstanding practice of selection by County Council; and,

Whereas the County of Simcoe is comprised of 16 member municipalities, each represented at County Council, forming a governance model rooted in local representation and accountability to residents; and,

Whereas residents expect that those exercising authority over local decision-making are accountable to the communities they serve, and not appointed by or primarily aligned with the provincial government; and,

Whereas Bill 100 proposes a reduction in County Council composition and introduces the potential for provincially regulated weighted voting, creating uncertainty regarding equitable representation among member municipalities; and,

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Whereas the Province has indicated its intention to extend “Strong Chair” powers to the Warden of the County of Simcoe, thereby concentrating decision-making authority in a single office; and,

Whereas such concentration of authority may alter the balance of municipal governance and reduce the role of council-based decision-making; and,

Whereas the introduction of Strong Chair powers at the upper-tier level may give rise to governance challenges where alignment between the Head of Council, Council, and the communities they serve is not maintained; and,

Whereas municipal professional associations have cautioned that such a governance model may place senior municipal staff in a difficult position that may undermine their neutrality and professionalism, and there continues uncertainty and concern among residents regarding the concentration of authority in a single office and the reduced role of councils; and,

Whereas the Township of Springwater has previously expressed opposition to the expansion of “Strong Mayor” powers and has consistently supported transparent, accountable, and locally driven governance structures that respect the role of elected councils and reflect the interests of residents.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That:

The Council of the Township of Springwater opposes Bill 100, the Better Regional Governance Act, 2026, in its current form; and,

That Council opposes the appointment of the Warden of the County of Simcoe by the Province, and affirms that the Warden should continue to be selected through a process that ensures accountability to the residents of Simcoe County; and,

That Council opposes the extension of “Strong Chair” powers to the Warden of the County of Simcoe, given the significant shift in governance authority and its potential impacts on local democracy, council function, and municipal administration; and,

That Council expresses concern regarding the potential introduction of provincially regulated weighted voting rules, and the absence of a clearly defined framework ensuring fair and equitable representation for all member municipalities; and,

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That the Government of Ontario be requested to amend Bill 100 to preserve local democratic authority, maintain council-based governance structures, and ensure that upper-tier municipal leadership remains accountable to local councils and communities; and,

That the Government of Ontario be further requested to undertake meaningful consultation with affected municipalities, including the County of Simcoe and its 16 member municipalities, prior to advancing any legislative or regulatory changes impacting municipal governance; and,

That this resolution be circulated to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the County of Simcoe, and all Ontario municipalities, for their consideration; and,

That this resolution also be shared with local media outlets to reflect community concerns and to clearly communicate the Township of Springwater's position to its residents.
Carried

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Yours Truly,

Renée Ainsworth
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Director of Corporate Services
renee.ainsworth@springwater.ca

cc. Simcoe County Council, clerks@simcoe.ca
Association of Ontario Municipalities resolutions@amo.on.ca
Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Municipalities